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TO RUEHC/SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 2501
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RHEHNSC/WHITE HOUSE NSC WASHDC PRIORITY
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RUEKJCS/SECDEF WASHDC PRIORITY
RUEAHQA/HQ USAF WASHINGTON DC PRIORITY
RUEADWD/DA WASHDC PRIORITY
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RUEHAM/AMEMBASSY AMMAN PRIORITY 2585
RUEHAK/AMEMBASSY ANKARA PRIORITY 3324
RUEHLB/AMEMBASSY BEIRUT PRIORITY 2556
RUEHEG/AMEMBASSY CAIRO PRIORITY 0520
RUEHDM/AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS PRIORITY 3288
RUEHLO/AMEMBASSY LONDON PRIORITY 0161
RUEHFR/AMEMBASSY PARIS PRIORITY 0626
RUEHRB/AMEMBASSY RABAT PRIORITY 7221
RUEHRO/AMEMBASSY ROME PRIORITY 4643
RUEHRH/AMEMBASSY RIYADH PRIORITY 9556
RUEHTU/AMEMBASSY TUNIS PRIORITY 3720
RUCNDT/USMISSION USUN NEW YORK PRIORITY 5663
RUEHJM/AMCONSUL JERUSALEM PRIORITY 7530
RHMFISS/CDR USCENTCOM MACDILL AFB FL PRIORITY
RHMFISS/COMSOCEUR VAIHINGEN GE PRIORITY
RHMFIUU/COMSIXTHFLT PRIORITY

UNCLAS TEL AVIV 002289

SIPDIS

STATE FOR NEA, NEA/IPA, NEA/PPD

WHITE HOUSE FOR PRESS OFFICE, SIT ROOM
NSC FOR NEA STAFF

SECDEF WASHDC FOR USDP/ASD-PA/ASD-ISA
HQ USAF FOR XOXO
DA WASHDC FOR SASA
JOINT STAFF WASHDC FOR PA
CDR USCENTCOM MACDILL AFB FL FOR POLAD/USIA ADVISOR
COMSOCEUR VAIHINGEN GE FOR PAO/POLAD
COMSIXTHFLT FOR 019

JERUSALEM ALSO ICD
LONDON ALSO FOR HKANONA AND POL
PARIS ALSO FOR POL
ROME FOR MFO

SIPDIS
E.O. 12958: N/A
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SUBJECT: ISRAEL MEDIA REACTION

SUBJECTS COVERED IN THIS REPORT:

Mideast

Key Stories in the Media:

Please note: block quotes only Friday, July 27, 2007

Mideast:

Summary:

Diplomatic correspondent Aluf Benn wrote in the independent, left-leaning Ha'aretz: "There is no doubt that Blair did not leave 10 Downing Street and his place in the front row of world leaders only to take care of repairing Ramallah's sewage system ... The man who has repeatedly declared that the Israeli-Palestinian conflict is the source of the problems between Islam and the West, and that this dispute can only be solved if a suitable mediator is found, will try his luck at concocting an agreement."

The conservative, independent Jerusalem Post editorialized: "It is pointless for the Arab states to continue to wait for the Palestinians to lead. It is the Arab states that led the Palestinians into war, before Israel's establishment and since, and it is the Arab states that must lead them to peace."

Block Quotes:

II. "Blair the Rock Star"

Diplomatic correspondent Aluf Benn wrote in the independent, left-leaning Ha'aretz (07/27): "Blair's visit left no doubt about it -- an international rock star is now dealing with the Israeli-Palestinian peace process. None of the previous personalities or emissaries enjoyed a similar standing, or the prestige and political savoir faire that Blair has brought with him to the position.... The major question that accompanied Blair's meetings with Israel's top political echelon concerned his intentions. Will he stick to the limited mandate he has been given by the Quartet ... or will he be pushed into genuine mediation between Prime Minister Ehud Olmert and the leaders pf the Palestinian Authority, Mahmoud Abbas and Salem Fayad, on the way to a final status solution -- and perhaps also Nobel Peace Prize?.... There is no doubt that Blair did not leave 10 Downing Street and his place in the front row of world leaders only to take care of repairing Ramallah's sewage system ... The man who has repeatedly declared that the Israeli-Palestinian conflict is the source of the problems between Islam and the West, and that this dispute can only be solved if a suitable mediator is found, will try his luck at concocting an agreement."

II. "Arabs Must Lead"

The conservative, independent Jerusalem Post editorialized (07/27): "With the important exceptions of the Egyptian and Jordanian peace treaties, and Mauritania's recognition of the Jewish state, the Arab states have been unwilling to lead the Palestinians towards peace with Israel. That example is obviously no longer enough. The Palestinians are weaker and more radicalized than ever.... It is pointless for the Arab states to continue to wait for the Palestinians to lead. It is the Arab states that led the Palestinians into war, before Israel's establishment and since, and it is the Arab states that must lead them to peace.... The West should be pushing all the Arab states, not just Egypt and Jordan, to begin normalizing relations with Israel and to abandon positions inconsistent with Israel's right to exist. It should go without saying that the West itself should be unabashedly rejecting such positions as well."

CRETZ